



PSYCHOLOGY 3995G (570)
Special Topics in Psychology
Fall/Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: Dr. Lynne Jackson
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Course Information

Calendar Description:

Selected topics of current interest in Psychology. Topic available in Department.

Prerequisite(s): [Psychology 2840F/G](#) (or Psychology 2800E, Psychology 2820E, [Psychology 2830A/B](#), [Psychology 2855F/G](#) or [Psychology 2856F/G](#)) and registration in the third or fourth year of Honours Specialization, Honours Double Major, Major or Specialization in Psychology, Honours Specialization in Applied Psychology, or permission of the Department.

Antirequisite(s):

Extra Information: 3 seminar hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: PSYCHOL

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

King's and Western University are located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples.

This land acknowledgement reminds us that we are on colonized land. In this course we are asked to consider how coloniality is relevant to the discipline of psychology and to engage in decolonial work. We are also asked to consider how the many forms of diversity that students bring to class is a resource and strength.

1. INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Lynne Jackson

Email: lynne.jackson@uwo.ca

Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

2. OFFICE HOURS

Immediately after class or by appointment (one hour per week).

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine how psychology can contribute to community well-being through engagement with decoloniality. By studying the work of underrepresented scholars, class members will explore the implications of a more culturally inclusive psychology for healthy communities. This will be a participatory, discussion-based class in which members will be encouraged to support one another's learning.

4. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By completing this course successfully, students will:

- understand how decoloniality can improve the ability of psychology to contribute to community well-being
- have a basic understanding of critical, decolonial, and cultural approaches to psychology
- appreciate the importance of reflexivity in psychological scholarship
- strengthen the abilities to read deeply and to reflect thoughtfully on material in both written and oral form
- have a strengthened ability to engage in collaborative, group-based learning

5. MODE OF INSTRUCTION

This is an in-person class. Students will do a reading and organize their reflections on it before class each week. Classes will focus on discussion of themes from the reading. It is critical that students do the assigned reading and come to class prepared to engage in conversation. We will strive to create a welcoming, equitable, inclusive, and respectful environment in which we support one another's learning.

6. REQUIRED READING

Blume, A.W. (2020). *A new psychology based on community, equality, and care of the earth: An Indigenous American perspective*. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger. (\$104.00+)

The textbook is available free of charge through the King's library.

7. EVALUATION

Item	% of Final Grade	Due Date
Quizzes	25 (best 10 of 11 @ 2.5% each)	Weekly, in class
Facilitated discussion	25	TBA
Journal	25 (best 10 of 11 @ 2.5% each)	Each week in class
Essay	25	April 9, in class

Quizzes will be written in class each class that there is an assigned reading. They will have mixed format (e.g., multiple choice, fill in the blank, true-false, short answer). Students will have 11 opportunities to write 10 quizzes and so the policy on undocumented absence does not apply and students must complete at least 10 quizzes to receive full marks on this component of the course grade. Students who complete 11 quizzes will receive the 10 highest marks. Accommodations involving extra time for tests will be granted in class using the principal of universal design. This means that all students will receive the flexibility that some may require. For example, if any student in the class is granted extra time, all students will be granted the same amount of extra time. This allows all students to participate in class together.

Facilitated discussion. Each student will facilitate the class discussion for one portion of one class. To do so, the student will do an extra reading on the week's topic, share what they have learned, and guide related conversation. Notes used to guide the discussion must be provided to the instructor prior to the presentation. The duration of the facilitated discussions will depend on the number of students in the course but will probably be about 30 minutes each. Students may not use the policy on undocumented absences for this assignment. For more information, please see the "extra readings" and "facilitated discussion" handouts on the course website.

Journal. Each week, students are required to prepare one page of journal-style reflections on the assigned reading. Journals must be submitted on paper in class; electronic copies submitted outside of class time will not be accepted. Students will have 11 opportunities to submit a journal in 10 classes and so the policy on undocumented absence does not apply and students must participate in at least 10 classes to receive full marks on this component of the course grade.

Essay. The essay will require integrative analysis of and reflection on all course content. Further information will be provided on the course website and will be discussed in class.

8. CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC * REQUIRED READING
Jan. 8	<i>Topic:</i> Introductions, class organization <i>Required reading:</i> Handouts on course website
Jan. 15	<i>Topic:</i> Community and culture <i>Required readings:</i> Introduction & Chapter 1
Jan. 22	<i>Topic:</i> Colonialism and culture <i>Required reading:</i> Chapter 2
Jan. 29	<i>Topic:</i> Psychology as a colonial institution <i>Required reading:</i> Chapter 3
Feb. 5	<i>Topic:</i> A new model for psychology <i>Required reading:</i> Chapter 4
Feb. 12	<i>Topic:</i> Methods of research, pedagogy, practice <i>Required readings:</i> Chapter 5
Feb. 26	<i>Topic:</i> Ethical psychology in the community <i>Required reading:</i> Chapter 6
March 5	<i>Topic:</i> Individual and community wellness <i>Required reading:</i> Chapter 7
March 12	<i>Topic:</i> How colonial culture hurts us all <i>Required reading:</i> Chapter 8
March 19	<i>Topic:</i> The need for system change <i>Required reading:</i> Chapter 9
March 26	<i>Topic:</i> Toward a sustainable global community <i>Required reading:</i> Chapter 10
April 2	<i>Topic:</i> A new spirit for psychology <i>Required reading:</i> Chapter 11
April 9	<i>Topic:</i> Wrapping up, in class essay

Note: Changes to the above schedule will be announced in class and on the course website.

Within this course, use of artificial intelligence tools such as Chat GPT is not permitted for preparing any work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

Department of Psychology Policies Related to AI Tools

1. Policy on the Use of Generative AI Tools

The Department of Psychology expects that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial).

The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) is not permitted for any submitted coursework unless express permission has been granted by your instructor.

Students **should not have AI tools write any part of their assignments or papers, either by copying and pasting or by paraphrasing the output.** Unauthorized use of AI constitutes an academic offence and will be subject to academic discipline.

Additional information: Students can use AI tools to clarify questions they have about course content (e.g., you can ask ChatGPT about a course concept to help with your understanding), but students should be aware that the response may be inaccurate or inconsistent with the course content. Asking your instructor is a more effective strategy. Students should note that information provided by AI tools such as ChatGPT can include mistakes, inaccuracies, biases, and outdated information. Whenever these tools are used, students should cross-verify the information provided to them. This means verifying that the sources used by AI exist and have been accurately summarized, consulting multiple original and reputable up-to-date sources to verify information, and being cautious of bias that could be present in the information provided.

2. Policy on Use of Translation Tools*

The Department of Psychology views the unapproved use of translation or language applications as an academic offence.

Any usage of translation applications or language generation by students to complete specific assigned work for this course **must be approved** by the instructor **prior** to submitting the work **and noted by the student in the submitted work** itself.

Writing text and then feeding it into a computer application to improve or translate your own words, changing a few words, and then submitting this text as if it was your own **constitutes plagiarism.** You must compose text, choose words, construct logic flow, structure sentences and paragraphs to organize, synthesize, interpret information with your own mind. When you borrow language or ideas from another person or from a machine this must be acknowledged with quotation marks and/or citations.

Why do we have this policy?

- Translation is intellectual work and produces intellectual property, thus any text which is translated must cite the translator.
- Psychology endeavors to advance students' linguistic, analytic, and reasoning competencies – this can not happen outside of specific language competencies.
- Earning a university degree signals that an individual has advanced literacy and communicative skill in the language of instruction at the university; this is English at King's University College at Western University. If translation machines are used by students without regulation, we will have no way of certifying whether these competencies exist and fewer mechanism for encouraging students to do the hard work to develop them.

** Based on the policy developed by the Department of Child and Youth Studies*

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/S_MC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University

College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools)

are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.